

# DOINGWHATWORKS



## Slideshow

FULL DETAILS AND TRANSCRIPT

### Enrichment Classes That Attract and Retain Students

Glover Community Learning Center, Ohio • November 2009

Topic: Increased Learning Time: Beyond the Regular School Day  
Practice: Maximize Attendance

#### Highlights

- The after-school program at Glover Community Learning Center uses enrichment activities to attract and “hook” students.
- Well-designed and well-implemented enrichment activities can improve students’ interpersonal and cognitive skills.
- The enrichment activities were made possible by contributions from local organizations and businesses as well as volunteers from the community.
- Survey results showed that confidence in new skills gained through enrichment classes is one of the greatest improvements students have made through the after-school program.

#### About the Site

Glover Community Learning Center  
Akron, OH

#### Demographics

48% Black

30% White

94% Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

7% English Language Learners

16% Special Education

Glover Community Learning Center operates the district's after-school program to help students progress academically at school. The school's approach includes the following:

- Students receive daily academic interventions followed by enrichment classes of their choice.
- The program director aligns the after-school instruction with the school curriculum.
- School-day and after-school teachers collaborate to identify students' needs.
- Students attend small classes aligned with their ability level.
- The district continually refines the program based on student data and feedback from parents.

## Full Transcript

Presentation title: Enrichment Classes That Attract and Retain Students

Title slide text:

Every day, students at the Akron After-School Program at Glover Community Learning Center receive one and a half hours of academic support, followed by one hour of an enrichment class they select. The enrichment classes offer new learning experiences to the students. These enrichment classes also motivate students to attend academic support classes, which provide them with increased time for learning and for making academic gains.

Slide 1: Enrichment Classes That Attract and Retain Students

The after-school program at Glover Community Learning Center uses enrichment activities to attract and “hook” students, engaging them in extended learning beyond the regular school day and motivating them to attend regularly. The enrichment activities are carefully selected based on an understanding of child development and feedback from students and their families.

Slide 2: Something Different

The enrichment activities introduce types of classes that are new to the students. Examples of enrichment classes include “Imaginarium” (for history and social studies), golf, tennis, and storytelling with art and music. The enrichment classes may also teach academic knowledge and skills while engaging students in

innovative project-based activities that incorporate technology and art.

#### Slide 3: Developing Social-Emotional and Cognitive Skills

Well-designed and well-implemented enrichment activities can improve students' interpersonal skills, including identifying and managing emotions, making and maintaining friends, and resolving conflicts in a mutual and peaceful manner. Enrichment activities can also strengthen cognitive skills such as problem solving, computer skills, spatial skills, and organization skills.

#### Slide 4: Hands-On Experiences

Learning about history can be fun when students can touch, dress up, play games, and create artifacts associated with the historical time period. For example, when students learned about ancient Egypt, they tried on the hairstyle and clothes of children their age and created artwork that resembled artifacts found in archeological expeditions.

#### Slide 5: Lights, Camera, Action!

At Glover Community Center, students can participate in performing arts classes such as theater and ballet. Through these classes, they practice verbal and nonverbal communication skills. By reading and dramatizing plays, poetry, and stories embedded in performing arts classes, students also have the opportunity to expand their vocabulary.

#### Slide 6: Getting Fit

After-school enrichment activities at Glover offer a myriad of opportunities for physical exercise, including ball games, dance, and field trips. Through these activities, the program increases the amount of physical activity that students engage in during after-school hours.

#### Slide 7: Ensuring High-Quality Enrichment

Often times, enrichment classes require separate sources of funding. The University of Akron, the Community Health Center, Girl Scouts, the City Recreation Department, the Akron Zoo, and other community organizations and businesses have helped to fund the enrichment activities at the Akron After-School Program. In addition, many community members provide enrichment as either paid instructors or volunteers.

Slide 8: Maintaining Regular Attendance

Parents feel that their children have the opportunity to participate in enrichment classes that they wouldn't otherwise have. In addition, parents report that one of the greatest benefits of the enrichment classes is the newfound confidence that their children have. Students report the same. At the end of the school day, students go eagerly to their after-school classes. The program has been successful in motivating students to stay at school beyond the regular school day.